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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Washington 25, D. C.

SPICE ANNOUNCEMENT

March 17, 1944

A number of questions have been asked concerning the various operations of spices coming under the jurisdiction of this office. In order to clear many of these points to all concerned, there is set forth in this letter details of certain recent developments and also instructions concerning the various spices which require special attention.

PEPPER

This Administration recently acquired a quantity of whole black pepper by requisition from various holders. A separate letter has been sent to spice packers whose stock is insufficient to meet civilian requirements pursuant to Food Distribution Order 19, until October 1, 1944. These packers have been invited to submit their bids to purchase the quantity to which they may be entitled in accordance with the order. This letter, however, did not make any reference to procurement of supplies to fulfill orders for delivery to quota exempt agencies as defined in Food Distribution Order 19.

Any firm requiring pepper to fulfill quota exempt deliveries or wishing to submit bids on invitations for future delivery to agencies quota exempt, may utilize pepper from their available supplies and then when their stock is less than three months' supply on the then prevailing civilian quota, they may submit further offers to purchase a quantity to bring their supply up to the limits as provided for in Food Distribution Order 19, Amendment 2, Paragraph (f)(1). This may also be applied to deliveries to industrial users of pepper used in the manufacture of other products for delivery to quota exempt agencies.

When submitting offers for a quantity of pepper to replace deliveries to or for quota exempt agencies, you are required to submit the name of the agency, contract reference number and quantity so delivered. It is necessary that purchases be limited in number and be in strict conformance with the foregoing.

This plan does not in any way interfere with the normal sale by customary sources of pepper within the ceiling price. The extent to which pepper may be accepted by packers, however, is restricted to the extent of the provisions of Food Distribution Order 19, Amendment 2, Paragraph (f)(1).

CELERY SEED

We are advised by the War Production Board that shipping space is available for the shipment of a limited quantity of celery seed from the port of Bombay, India only. Applications in accordance with Form WPB-1041 may be submitted in the usual manner, therefore, by those desiring to participate in such importation. Please note that applications cannot be considered for shipment from the port of Karachi or any other port.

MAY 9 1944

CANARY SEED

We are also advised by the War Production Board that shipping space is expected to be available for a limited quantity of canary seed from Argentine only. Those who have been established as qualified importers of this item and received authorizations last month may submit applications for double that quantity at this time and these will be executed as soon as conditions permit and for the quantities to which each importer may be entitled.

PIMENTO

Applications may now be submitted by qualified importers for the balance of their quota for the current allocation period. As advised in a previous letter, all pimento allocated is expected to be purchased and shipped by June 30. Should you wish to apply for the pimento to which you are entitled submit an application for 130% of the amount covered by our letter of January 13, 1944.

GINGER

There is still no news as to the possibility of shipment of ginger from Africa. Applications previously submitted are still being held and will be acted on as soon as conditions permit.

NUTMEGS AND MACE

Some difficulty has been experienced in the past in moving nutmegs from Port of Spain, Trinidad, to which point they are shipped from Grenada. This is due to the fact that insufficient space has been available from the War Shipping Administration but it is understood that accumulated supplies were moved on a boat that left in February. Further substantial space is expected to be available within the next few weeks for discharge at New York. It is urged, therefore, that any importers who may not have utilized their authorizations and engaged their supplies, do so promptly so that the shippers may prepare the goods and effect shipment on this next boat to avoid deterioration.

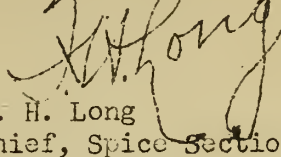
There are heavy cargoes of other more critical materials to be moved from that area. This is expected to make it difficult to secure further space for about sixty days. Those who have customarily imported nutmegs for sale for export are urged to file applications specifically for this purpose indicating the country to which they wish to export them.

It is understood from the shippers in Grenada that mace is not being ordered in proportion to the quantity allocated so it is suggested that those holding authorizations arrange to import their mace, if possible, to be moved on this next steamer too.

The question of preparing mace and nutmegs and effecting movement to prevent their deterioration, has been recently discussed in full with the producers and dealers in Grenada. Steps are being taken to arrange shipping space to move this cargo as promptly as possible. It may be difficult, however, to prevent delays and it has been suggested to the producers that they consider lining nutmegs as has been done in the case of the East Indian. The shippers in Grenada are under the impression that American importers will not accept the nutmegs lined except in the few instances where they have been specifically

ordered so prepared. The shippers have been advised that the importers would not object providing it were necessary to prevent deterioration and in view of today's conditions. It might be well for importers to mention this to their suppliers and if acceptable, assure them that the lined nutmegs are not objectionable if that is advisable to protect them in the event of delays in transit.

Very truly yours,



F. H. Long
Chief, Spice Section
Special Commodities Branch

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